

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076936

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOL RPT CAIRO 09087 ACTION SECSTATE 23 MAR 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 09087

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EG, IS, US

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN LETTER TO UNSYG ON ISRAELI OIL ACTIVITIES IN

- SINAI

REF: CAIRO 6032

1. MFA LEGAL AFFAIRS ADVISOR ELARABY TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT PREPARATION OF EGYPTIAN LETTER TO UNSYG PROTESTING ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN SINAI AND GULF OF SUEZ NEARING COMPLETION. HE PROMISED PROVIDE US WITH COPY AS SOON AS FOREIGN MINISTER SIGNS OFF ON IT (SEE REFTEL). LETTER WILL STATE EGYPT'S LEGAL POSITION AND WILL WARN ANY INTERNATIONAL COMPANY AGAINST COOPERATING WITH ISRAELIS IN
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RESOURCE EXPLOITATION IN OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN TERRITORY.

2. ELARABY SAID HE ANXIOUS TO HAVE ANY NEWS OF ISRAELI PRODUCTION FROM ALMA FIELD. EMBOFF SAID WE HAVE NO INDICATION YET THAT PRODUCTION HAS BEGUN AND DOUBTED THERE WOULD BE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. EGYPTIANS PLANNING MAKE, ACCORDING ELARABY, "SEPARATE COMPLAINT" WHEN

PRODUCTION BEGINS. NATURE AND VENUE OF COMPLAINT NOT DETERMINED.

3. MEANWHILE OUR PETROLEUM CONTACTS HERE REGARD BEGINNING OF ISRAELI PRODUCTION AT ALMA FIELD AS VERY NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENT. AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN GEOLOGISTS POINT OUT ALMA STRUCTURE IS LARGEST YET IDENTIFIED IN EASTERN GULF AND THAT PRODUCTION COULD SOAR TO 150,000 BBD WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY. (WE UNDERSTAND THIS TOTAL IS CLOSE TO ISRAELI DAILY REQUIREMENT.) THEY SUSPECT THIS WOULD MAKE ISRAELIS EVEN MORE RELUCTANT TO GIVE UP SINAI TERRITORY.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE INFORMED GOE THAT WE HAVE MADE DEMARCHE TO GOI ABOUT PRODUCTION AT ALMA FIELD. EILTS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
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